

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 07158 241808Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02

CU-02 OMB-01 IO-13 /077 W

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R 241515Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3677

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 7158

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SCUL US GE

SUBJ: RETURN OF DURER PORTRAITS

REFS: A) STATE 164601; B) BERLIN 7158

IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE MATTER OF JEWISH CLAIMS WITH THE GDR ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE FIGHTERS, FERENCZ INDICATED HE ALSO USED HIS STAY HERE TO TAKE UP WITH UNNAMED PEOPLE THE MATTER OF THE DURER PAINTINGS. FERENCZ SAID HE HAS WORKED OUT A POSSIBLE SOLUTION WHICH HE IS TRYING OUT ON THE VARIOUS PARTIES INVOLVED. THE SOLUTION WOULD INCLUDE THE SALE OF THE PAINTING TO AN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND HE MENTIONED THE SUM OF \$4 MILLION. THIS SUM WOULD THEN BE DIVIDED, WITH 50 PCT GOING TO THE GDR AND THE OTHER 50 PCT TO THE AMERICAN CLAIMANTS. THEN, THE AMERICAN MUSEUM WOULD ARRANGE A CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH AN APPROPRIATE GDR MUSEUM FOR THE SHOWING OF THE PAINTINGS WHICH WOULD THEN BE RETURNED TO THE US.

2. FERENCZ DOES NOT KNOW HOW THIS WILL BE RECEIVED BY HIS GDR CONTACTS BUT APPEARED OPTIMISTIC THAT SOMETHING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT. HE IS CONVINCED, AND TELLING HIS GDR CONTACTS, THAT IF THEY TRY TO FIGHT
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 07158 241808Z

THE CASE ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM, THEY

WILL LOSE. IF, HOWEVER, THEY ACCEPT HIS APPROACH, THEY
WOULD AT LEAST HAVE A BIRD IN THE HAND.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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